

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

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TO: Subcommittee D
University Curriculum Committee

FROM: D.W. Hall, Chairperson
University Curriculum Committee

A number of departments have more than one alpha code - that is they offer courses with more than one label, e.g., Physics & Astronomy offers courses in both Physics - PHY and Astronomy and Astrophysics - AST, Agricultural Engineering offers courses in AE, AET, BCM. Romance and Classical Languages uses ROM, CLA, FRN, GRK, ITL, LTN, PRT, and SPN.

Recently we have had a number of requests from departments with more than one alpha code to cross-list some courses in two of their alpha codes. The usual reasons for such a cross-listing are absent in the case of a single department.

Cross-listing is a useful device administratively in order to share the cost of instruction of a course. It is useful from U.C.C.'s viewpoint when the content of a proposed course is such that it could be offered by more than one department. It is sometimes useful, from a student's point of view when viewing courses in one department, to see courses of a similar or related nature offered by another department. It even informs the students about the nature of a course, e.g., if a course is jointly listed by English and Anthropology.

None of these reasons seem to be present in the case of a single department.

It is the recommendation of the Policy Issues Subcommittee that cross-listing of a course by a department in more than one alpha code not be prohibited but that such a cross-listing be explicitly justified. For example, it may be for accreditation or college degree requirements that such a cross-listing is necessary. It is assumed that if a department has more than one alpha code there may be a strong connection or overlap in the subject matter of the two alpha codes but this alone should not be sufficient to have a course cross-listed.

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